

growth, able to withstand drought and alkali to a great degree. Of value especially for those semi-arid sections of the United States where the winters are not too severe. Chinese name 'Shan tchun liu', meaning mountain spring willow." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

"It is peculiar that the tamarisk is listed by a number of nursery companies as an ornamental for the humid areas of eastern United States and is commonly employed in that way. Rarely is any mention made in nursery catalogues of its adaptability for dry-land conditions. The writer was made acquainted with its drought-resistant qualities accidentally through having obtained a single specimen for planting in a yard in the southwestern plains. It was soon found to be by far the most drought-resistant and otherwise hardy of all the trees and shrubs planted on the same land, including about twenty species. There appears to be no limit in dryness of the soil on any usual Great Plains farm beyond which this plant will not survive. It is also best fitted for saline soil of all plants yet known to the writer. It has an extremely rapid growth, and, by branching out close to the ground, produces an excellent close hedge which will soon turn some kinds of stock even with its absence of thorns. None of the species known to the writer grow very tall, not ordinarily more than twenty feet, though two rather old specimens have been observed near the courthouse at Tascosa, Texas, 12 to 15 inches in diameter.

"To the ordinary observer, not a specialist in botany, the plant is best described by saying that it most resembles asparagus. It has a tendency to make a very scraggy growth and will not grow erect with the lower limbs very far from the ground unless carefully and constantly pruned to that end. Botanically it belongs to the order Tamariscineae. It bears very small scale-like leaves and small pink or white flowers, which are either four or five parted.

"An interesting thing about tamarisk, and of the greatest importance where these trees are adapted and where nursery stock is not easily obtained, is the fact that the plant can be readily propagated by means of cuttings. After two or three years' growth, therefore, of from one to one dozen specimens there need to be no further purchase of stock, as there is plenty of material in the way of cuttings from these trees for all ordinary planting purposes. If advantage is taken of an opportunity to put the cutting in the ground soon after a rain, no further attention is needed other than good cultivation, and during an average season on the driest farms in the Great Plains the trees will thereafter succeed without a question." (Mark Alfred Carleton, *Science*, May 8, 1914.)